

Mr. PEPYS to the Lord Mayor and
Court of Aldermen upon the Present
State of CHRIST-HOSPITAL.

To the Right Honourable Sir Humphry
Edwin, Lord Mayor.

Tork-Buildings, July 11. 1698.

My Lord,

MY last to your Lordship is now more than three Months old. In which, led by your Lordships own Invitation, I chose to lodge in your Hand the Execution of a Matter, to which I fully believe your Lordship did then as little design, as I did expect, or indeed the Matter it self could be thought to bear, the unnecessary delay of three Dayes. Such was the Account it brought you of the then wretched State of Christ-Hospital; and that under an hourly Declension towards worse.

The esteem I have, My Lord, of the Sincerity of your Intentions, and the Assurances you were pleased at the same time, and by repeated Messages since, to give me thereof, will not permit me to charge this Loss of Time (though greater in it self than the whole Remainder of your Lordships year of Mayoralty, will (I fear) suffice to make amends for) upon ought else, than some unforeseen Difficulties in your attempting that Singly, which would call for the Strength, as it does indeed on the Duties, of More; I mean of the whole Body Corporate of the City, intrusted therewith by the Crown.

Which Body not being (that I know) to be otherwise come-at by me, than through that of the Court of Aldermen; I have determined upon discharging my Duty thereto in this Matter, by a Line or two at its next Meeting: When your Lordship with them, assisted by my forementioned Paper of the 5th. of April, and the Report accompanying it of the 23d. of March, will, I doubt not, be fully enabled both to judge and do what shall then appear reasonable. I am with all Respect,

My L O R D,

Your Lordships most obedient Servant

S. Pepys.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor
and Court of Aldermen.

Tork-Buildings, July, 12. 1698.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

IT being from this *Court* only that I derive my relation as a Governor to **Christ-Hospital**; 'tis to it alone I hold my self first accountable for the *Issue* of my Endeavours under that **Charge**.

Not that either *You* or *my self* (could it have been avoided) had ever had the trouble of it in this *Place*: As having made it my many Years Labour, to have prevented or cur'd elsewhere (at the **Hospital**, I mean) those **Eivils**, which from my disappointments *there*, I am now driven to expose to *You here*.

What they are, I take leave to refer You for Information to two **Papers** of mine, of the 23d of *March* and 5th of *April* last; which (besides many others lying with the **Hospital**) have for some *Months* been by me lodg'd, in the Hands of the Right Honourable and my Honoured Friend the *Lord Mayor*; shewing the present *State* of this Unhappy *House* in its **Revenue, Stock, and Deyhtg**; with another prepar'd at the same time, and ready (when *seasonable*) to follow them, relating to the no less wretched *Condition* of it, in its **Moral and Religious Deconomy**: Making together, such an Instance of **ROYAL and PRIVATE CHARITIES**, consecrated to Uses the most Pious and Publick, so spent, so misapply'd, perverted, and unaccountably sunk, within so little time, to so great a Value, and with so reproachful an Account to be given of any End of its Institution answer'd, towards either God or Man; as I firmly believe, the Story of no *one* House of Charity, in any Christian Age or Place, can parallel.

And because I foresee, that without immediate application from this *Court*, nothing herein can receive Amendment; But that on the contrary, the *Support, Service, and Honour* of this **Religious House** must fall, and both its *Miscarriage* and *Debts* become the **City's** to answer-for. And more than so; that for what concerns the **Mathematick Foundation** there, erected by my Royal Master King Charles II. for the *Advancement of Navigation*; my Personal Interest in the *Prosperity* of it, will oblige me to become an *Assistant* in the *Enquiries*, which in Right to His present *Majesty* must be expected, into the *Effects* of what has been spent thereon; and the *Ballance* (to above 20000*l.*) yet resting to be accounted-for to Him. I thought it my *Duty*, while under my present Relation to this Your *Service*, to endeavour hereby, and by Your timely improving it, both to excite and enable You, to bring-about such a *Reformation* herein of Your own, as may prevent the *Consequences* of the *wants* of it.

If not; it remains only, that I beg Your *disburthening* me of my **Charge** herein;

herein ; that I may be at liberty to pursue what may offer it self of greater Efficacy towards the *Recovery* of this **Foundation**, and the *Ad-
vancement* of the great **End** of it in our **Navigations** ; under the nearer Influence and Protection of His **Majesty**, in that of his own late *Erection* on the same *Royal Design* elsewhere. I am, with great Respect,

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

Your most Faithful and most Obedient Servant

S. Pepys.

upon the State of

Christ-Hospital.

to those who have made use of it, & to whom I wish to add
that our late administration has so far succeeded in its object
which was to make the hospital more comfortable & convenient
and to render it more eligible for a place of residence for
the poor & infirm.

CHARLES HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

April 1.

Apr. 29. 1699.

Mr. P E P Y S to the Lord Mayor
Upon the Present State of
CHRIST-HOSPITAL.

To the Right Honourable Sir Humphry
Edwin, Lord Mayor.

Tuesday, Octob. 25. 1698.
Tork-Buildings.

My Lord,

Another Three Months are now run-out, and the whole twelve of your Lordship's Great Office at the Eve of their Expiring; while our poor **Ophangs** remain in the same reliefless State I left them in with your Lordship, in my Letter of the 5th. of April last. Wherein nothing more was propos'd of Trouble to your Lordship towards the remedying it (and that too of your Lordship's own seeking) than the accompanying with your Authority my Report thereof to the Gentlemen of Christ-Hospital (to whom it was specially directed) and to the Body-Corporate of the City, which, as I have heretofore noted, stands originally answerable for the same, to the Crown.

In neither of which, though abundantly apply'd-to in both, has your Lordship thought fit to express any regard to your *Undertaking* to me. But so much the contrary; as to have arraign'd my late *Memorial* to you concerning it (even after your *Own* and the *Court of Aldermen's* solemn *Thanks* to me for it) as a *Libel*, and the only Occasion of the *No-Voice* given your Lordship, at the late *Parliament-Election* for the City. And this deliver'd me from your Lordship, and my *Lady Mayore's* too, as your *Joint-Message*, by the same Worthy Citizen, and Member both of your *Common Council* and *Hospital*, whom your self was first pleased to employ to me, on those Pious *Errands* I was misled by, to the submitting the *Execution* of this Matter singly to your Lordship.

My Lord, I shall not offer at the asking-after, or even aiming at the Ground of this your so extraordinary Dealing, in a Cause of so Religious an Import; as leaving that to God, the City, and your Self, to be reckon'd-for. It shall suffice me, My Lord, to observe, That it has arisen from neither of those Causes, whereto the *Court of Aldermen* were led to joyn with your Lordship in the assigning it, and in the yet unperform'd Undertaking for its Recovery; your **Sickness**, I mean, My Lord, and Sir Cho. Stamp's *Absence*.

A

Give

Give me leave only, to bewail the Consequences of it to the ~~Poor~~; whatever it may end-in to the City. Namely, the Continuance hereby occasion'd to the *Imposeur* upon the Gentlemen of the Hospital; whose better *Information* could not but e're this have produc'd some good Effects towards its Relief. Next, the more confirm'd *Admission* of their Methods, whose *Interest* (and therefore *Basis*) it seems to be, to sup-prefs that *Information*. And lastly, the rend'ring the *Poverty*, *Disorders*, and *Impieties* of the Place, so much les superable than they appear'd to me when first laid before your Lordship; as to put me beyond all *Hopes of their Redress*, from any lower Hand than that of a Royal Visitation.

The Power of which (after so glorious a Proof of it as I have lately seen, to the lasting Honour of his Lordship, the present Lord Chancellor, in the Case of St. Katherines) I cannot, on behalf of our distres'd Orphans, and in right to their Holy Benefactors, but bless Almighty God for; and henceforward direct my self wholly to; without offering either your Lordship, my Lord Elect your Honourable Successor, his Brethren the Court of Aldermen, the Gentlemen of the Hospital, or my Self, the Interruptions I have been so long driven, at the end of every Three Months, fruitlessly to repeat on this Subject. But apply my self to the speedy bringing-up to this Day what is now behind of my Report, for the Six Months your Lordship has thus unhappily added to the Time I had last adjusted it to, relating to the Moral Part of this House's Misery: In order to such Use to be made thereof, as a like Royal Inspection may, I trust, find it convertible to.

It remains; That in taking my Leave of your Lordship (which I would do with all the Respect due to your Lordship's Just Character) I beg you to consider, Whether what I either have done, am now doing, or may have further to do, in Exposing my Observations and Sentiments in this Matter, be either more or other, than what my Charge as a Governour obliges me to; and what my self alone, through my closer Applications to the Service of the House, am inlighthen'd to do; or elsewhere, than by my immediate Duty I am bound; or, which is yet more, in any other manner, than what is alone left me to do it in.

Especially, after the Miscarriage of all other Methods (Personal and Written) employ'd by me with those I thought most concern'd to improve them; whether at their Committees and Courts, or separately as Private Governours and Superior Ministers; viz. the Treasurer, President, and last of all your Lordship, both alone, and in Conjunction with your Brethren the Aldermen: For preventing (if possible) the obvious Consequences of my being compell'd to the carrying them elsewhere.

And even this too, with such a degree of Tenderness, as, after all that has been said of its being made the Entertainment of Coffee-houses, (to the Offence, I find, of my Lady Mayors as well as your Self, and not a little to my own too, for the sake of the Poor,) to stand ready with a Reward of Five Pounds to whoever shall shew me any one of my Printed Copies, other than what were strictly deliver'd by Mr. Town-Clerk to Your Self, the Aldermen, and the Assistants of that Court; and those severally indors'd by a Hand of my own, with the Name of each Person intituled to the same.

And

And if this, *My Lord*, be a *Libel*; I shall not undertake for its being my *last*, where nothing gentler will be hearken'd to; rather than be conscious of an approaching *Ruin* to a *Foundation* like this I'm concern'd for, and be **Dumb**.

Next, *My Lord*, for avoiding any unnecessary Repetition of *Trouble* to the *Court* now sitting, where Your *Lordship* has yet the *Honour* of *Presiding*; permit me to pray, That in the *Notice* you may see reasonable to take there, of this *Paper*: You will please to be its *Remembrancer*, in what, for the *Considerations* assign'd in my *last*, I then bespoke its *Favour* in reference to the disburthening me of a *Charge*, in which I am at the end of any *Hopes* of seeing my self further *serviceable*.

Lastly, let it be no *Offence* to Your *Lordship*, that I end with an *Observation*, impossible for me to over-look. Namely; That while I am here lamenting the Misfortune of our *Poor*, from the *Suppression* of this *Report* of mine, calculated for their *Relief*; I find so much of it (and so much only) as seemed to me the properest *Introduction* to it, in *Advancement* of *Charity*; transferr'd *in terminis* to the Head of a *Sermon* and made the *Text* of it, preach'd before your *Lordship*, and published by *Your Command*, in exp'res *Diminution* thereof. And not that *only*; but to the doing violence to the *Memory* of One (scarce yet *Cold* in his *Grave*) whose **Good Works** have been too *many* and too *conspicuous*, not to have covered *Errors* of a much greater *Magnitude* (for no *Man* thought him *Infallible*) than any I hear him charg'd with. Especially, in a *Point* of *Faith*; wherein 'tis hard to say, which rais'd the greater *Dust*, and most to the offence of *Weaker Eyes*: His *single Departure* from the *Doctrine* of *Our Church*, towards the *Wrong*; or that of *our own Doctors* from *One another*, in their *Determinations* touching the *Right*.

So far only I shall adventure to interpose, in the particular *Doctrine* advanced in this *Sermon* by Your *Lordship's Chaplain* (whom I take to be the first that ever rais'd it from that *Text*) as with all deference to recommend it back to Your *Lordship*, with this only *Improvement*, for the rendring it more *apposite* and *edifying* in the present *Cafe*; Viz. *That the Neglect of the Poor is as little an Evidence of a True Faith, in any Body else; as the Care of them is a Justification of a Mistaken one, in Mr. Fermin.*

I am, most respectfully,

My L O R D ,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

A COPY of the foremention'd Letter of April the 5th.

Tork-Buildings, April 5th. 1693.

My Lord,

After acknowledging with all thankfulness to your *Lordship* (but with no small *uneasiness* to my self, from my not being yet able to do it as I ought) for the double *Honour* of your *Lordship's* late *Visits*: I take this time for putting into your *Hand* (by your Servant Mr. *Parry*) my expected *Report*, upon the *Subject* you have been pleas'd to give me so much *Evidence* of your compassionate *Concernment* for; I mean, that of **Christ-Hospital**: clos'd at the *Day* I lately presum'd to bespeak of your *Lordship* (had it stood with your *well-liking*) for its Delivery in **Court** there. And this I take the liberty of giving your *Lordship* the single trouble of;

First, As by your *Great Office* you are, and stand originally declar'd to be, **Chief Ruler** and **Governour** (in Superiority to the *President* himself) both of that and every other **Hospital**. In which *Quality* I submit it afresh to your *Lordship* to consider; How far you may yet think fit to concur with me, in the having it communicated to that **Court**: For the sake of the many *Gentlemen* of the first Degree for *Honour* and *Probity* in that *Body*, wholly uninform'd in every *Article* of its *Contents*, and who (were they appris'd thereof) would as little bear being thought *Assistants* to the present **Managements** there, as my self can, who have now from 14 Years past, been on that *Score alone*, avowedly withdrawn therefrom.

Nor do I repeat this, *My Lord*, from the least *View* I can yet have of any *Success* from it, after the *Reception* met-with there by my *last*. But in pure Discharge of what I hold it my *Duty* to do, towards that *House* and *Them*, and to their late *Resolution* in **Court** touching this *Matter*: Whatever their *Returns* may be for it, towards either *Themselves* or *Me*.

Hert, with regard to your yet greater and nearer *Interest* in this *Affair*, as *Head* of that *Body*, the **Mayor**, **Commonalty**, and **Citizens** of **London**, incorporated by K. **Edward VI**, as **Governours General** of all his **Hospitals**. To whom *We* of the *particular Houses* rest accountable for what *We* do; as (with due deference) I take *Them* to be, by *Solemn Indenture*, to the **King**; and particularly,

That the **Revenues** of the said **Hospitals**, over and above the ordinary **Fees**, **Pensions**, and **Lawful Charges**, going out of the same, without **Fraud** or **Covin**, shall be wholly bestow'd, employ'd, and go, to the **Relief** and **Sustentation** of the **Poor**.

And under this *Character* I am again to submit to Your *Lordship*, the *Consideration* and *Choice* of Your *Time* and *Method*, for bringing it before *Yourselv*e in Conjunction with that **Body**, for its further *Disposition*, as in *Yours* and *Their* *Wisdoms* shall be found reasonable.

Allowing

Allowing me only to add ; That the late Unhappy Case of the *Orphans* of your *Rich*, seems yet too fresh (*could it be prevented*) to be so soon follow'd by *One* of so much a more moving sound as *This*, of the *Orphans* of your *Poor*. The Point, of all others, wherein the Credit of this *City* has (from the immortal Performances of our *Fathers*) been hitherto preserv'd the most unsaken : And therefore least fit for our present Violation ; as bearing in it the Cause of dead *Benefactors* and living *Infants*, a-like incapable of being their own *Advocates*. And so much, *My Lord*, the more worthy of, as well as needing, your *Lordship's* Patronage, and the Benefit of your Authority (great indeed, but daily short'ning) as in a Service, at once, acceptable to *God*, aidful to his *Poor*, profitable to the *Publick*, and of consequence to the general Honour of the *City*, and eminently so in particular to your *Lordship*.

Towards which, if ought further from me may be thought useful ; your *Lordship* is fully Master both of *Me* and *It*. Whether as to the *Whole*, or that special Part of it, which respects the *Mathematick Foundation*, instituted by my Royal Master *K. Charles II.* for the *Advancement of Navigation*. Which I must not spare the declaring to your *Lordship* my being too particularly interested in, ever silently to see the *Ruin* of. And therefore must beg your *Lordship's* and their making such Use of it, in your *Procedure* and *Adjustments* with the *Treasurer* and his *Security* in their approaching *Discharge*, as on the King's Behalf and your *Own* shall appear expedient.

Nor yet (as before) would I be thought so far to restrain my *Care* herein to this *Foundation*, as to forget my general *Duty* to the *Whole* ; By omitting to observe to you, That there lies no less Room open, for the Exercise of your *Lordship's* and the *City's* *Authority*, *Trust*, and *Paternal Regard* to the Weal of that *Whole*, than of this particular Branch of it : By seeing ; that the *near 200,000 £.* of our *Poor's* *Estate* concern'd in that *Gentleman's Account*, (and never yet allow'd, look'd into, or so much as regularly laid before a *Court* there) receive its *Passage* through yours, in such manner as it ought, and We would it should, were the Effects thereof all our own *Fathers* *Gifts*, and the *Orphans* interested in them our own *Children*. As in a *Civil*, as well as *Religious Construction*, they indeed are little less : Being most of them, the real wretched *Orphans* of our *Fellow-Citizens*.

To *Whom*, as such, I have ever most affectionately labour'd, and from this your *Lordship's* and the *City's* earnest, though late, *Interposition* on their Behalf, will not yet despair, of seeing *my self* once again in a Condition of being *Useful*. Remaining,

My L O R D

Your Lordship's most faithful
and most obedient Servant,

S. Pepys.

To the Committee of CHRIST-HOSPITAL,
appointed for the Receiving and Considering
my Report touching the State thereof.

Wednesday, Octob. 26th. 1698.
Tork-Buildings.

Gentlemen,

I Do with great Respect acknowledge my having this day receiv'd from the hands of my honoured Friends Mr. Lane and Mr. Wilmot, your written Command of the 24th. Instant; and at their Desire return you this my like Answer. Viz.

That, besides what has been heretofore abundantly noted to you from among Your selves in open Court, of the Reasons (both Personal and Publick) of my Non-Attendance there; and what has moreover, for now more than 10 Months lain before you in the last Paragraph of my Letter thereto of the 17th. of December (wrote at their own Instance, and on an occasion then most pressing) touching the Report you are now desiring my Copy of; I pray you to know, viz.

That for the Reasons then given you, I did above 6 Months since lodge for your Use, and exprely directed so, the Original of that Report, with the Lord Mayor.

That his Lordship was pleased from time to time by his Messages to assure me, of his having communicated it to the Court of Aldermen, and its being from thence referr'd to, and lying before a Select Committee.

That understanding, after 3 Months Expectation of it, No advance to have been made therein; I took the liberty of reminding his Lordship by one Letter, and laying the Whole Matter in another, before the Court of Aldermen, in July last.

That with solemn written Thanks given me for it from both; and their Joyn-t-assurance, that Nothing should be wanting on their part towards its Recovery and Reformation; they tell me, my Memorials (which could be nothing but what you are now seeking after) lay still before their Committee.

Lastly; That finding, after another 3 Months, Nothing yet done; but instead on't, my Papers (I know not how) sunk, or pretended to be so, between his Lordship and Sir Thomas Stamp; and being from thence, from the Nature of the Affair, and the Proofs I have met with (different from all I have ever been accustomed-to) of the Motion of these Bodies, convinced of the Hopelessness of any Remedies therefrom to the Evils

Evils before us; I have by a very late Letter to my *Lord Mayor* in *Court* (whereto I pray you to be referr'd) taken my final Leave both of *Him*, and *It*, and *You*; in order to my resorting to what alone is able to set us *right*, and whereof I have long ago been your *Unhappy Remembrancer*; I mean, a *Royal Visitation*.

Not nevertheless, but that, should his *Lordship* and the *Court of Aldermen* (to whom alone, as before, I have left my self yet at *Liberty* to expose it) be together satisfied in the *Mislaying* of this *Report* of mine, and shall think fit to require a *Duplicate* of it; I hold it my *Duty* to obey them; but in such *manner*, as may best prevent its being any more so *Mislaid*.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most affectionate, most faithful,

and most humble Servant,

S. Pepys

To the R^t Hon^{ble} Sir Fr. Child, L^d Mayor.

[Accompanying, to Him and the Court of Aldermen,
Copies of the preceding Letters.]

Tork-Buildings, Tuesday Nov. 8. 1698.

My Lord,

I Am (by an *Omission* of your *Predecessor's*) compell'd to the *Coming* your *Lordship* to your honorable *Chair*, with the trouble of a *Copy* of what I found necessary to take my *Farewell* with, of *Him*. I mean, my *Lord*, a *Letter* of mine of the 25th. of the last, addressed to him in *Court* (as this is to your *Lordship*) and not only *there* delivered and opened, but with part of it expressly worded for his communicating thereto.

Nor

Nor am I ignorant, my Lord, how far your Self and **Court** have ex-prest your *Resentments* of the want of it from *him*: and on that *Consideration*, think my self under the greater Obligation of giving you this *View* thereof, in the *Method* I did my *last*. Wherein with what *Tenderness* I governed my-self, towards both this **Court** and the **Hospital** concerned in it, will be best understood from the *Enclosed*, and what I might further appeal to from some of your own honour'd *Members* concerning it.

Which *Paper*, my Lord, I therefore thus humbly lodge in your *Lordship's* hands and *Theirs*, with two *Others* on the same *Subject* (one of elder, the other of later *Date*) of equal *Service* to the illustrating of the same; And all submitted to such your *Applications* of them, as your *Predecessor* shall be found to have left you Opportunity for.

Mr. P E P Y S,
upon the State of
Christ-Hospital.

Paper II.

One thing only I have to *pre-bespeak* concerning them. Namely, that the *Earnestness* wherewith I may be thought delivering my self therein, touching the *Necessity* of a **Royal Visitation**; may not be interpreted to arise, from any *Propension* in me to the removing this *Affair* out of **Your hands**; or as pretending to any *power* or *purpose* of doing more towards it, than the bringing it within the *Notice* of that **Minister**, with whom the **Crown** hath lodged the determining of the *Reasonableness*, of taking it into *its Own*. And so much, my Lord, I think my self, in Faithfulness to *It*, to *You*, and to the *Poor*, indispensably bound to do: And that, upon such *Convictions* of the *Necessity* of it, as the *Piety* of this **Court** (when truly enlighten'd in 'em, and apprised of what my *Former* and *This* shew you to lye yet *unreported* by me, of much harsher a *Hearing* than all that has been yet spoken of) will be but *too well* and, I fear, *too late* satisfied in the *Reasons* of.

I am, My L O R D,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

S. Pepys.

A.D. 1699.